

July 26, 1969

TO: The Curatorial Staff

FROM: The Chief Curator

As you all know, we are receiving an ever-increasing number of requests for the identification of substantial lots of material. It is difficult now for our limited staff to perform this service in addition to their regular curatorial duties and it will become well-nigh impossible once we become involved in preparations for the International Numismatic Congress of 1973. While we shall, of course, continue to help members of the Society with an occasional problem, I feel that we must begin to restrict this service to a few coins.

With regard to inquiries as to genuineness and value, you will remember that it has long been the official policy of the Society not to authenticate or evaluate coins and related material.

W. T.



THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
(FOUNDED 1858 • INCORPORATED 1965)
BROADWAY AT 155TH STREET
NEW YORK · N.Y. 10032

MEMORANDUM

To: Curators

From: W. E. Metcalf

Re: Disposition of Duplicates

This supersedes the memorandum of April 16, 1980, regarding disposition of duplicates.

Until Council revises its policy as adopted in 1974 (a summary of which appears on the reverse of the forms for Disposition of Numismatic Material) that policy will remain in effect, with the stipulation that all transactions by means other than auction are subject to the prior approval of the President.

As usual, independent appraisals are to be obtained before the consignment of material, and every effort should be made to place material at auction before other options are explored.

July 21, 1981

orig. with July 17 Council Minutes

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MEMORANDUM

To: Curators

From: WEM

Subject: Evaluation of Gifts to Collection

At its meeting of October 9, Council voted to approve the guidelines with regard to appraisal of donated objects described on the attached sheet.

Thus in the case of a donation of a single coin worth more than \$750 or an assemblage aggregating more than \$5,000 in market value, an outside appraisal is to be solicited. This may involve some expense to the donor, but he can be reminded that the cost of the appraisal is offset by the diminished risk of queries from the IRS.

Normally the appraisal value, as determined by an outsider, should be used as the accession value of the donation. If a curator cannot in good conscience employ the appraised value, I should be made aware of the problem and of the discrepancy between the proposed book value and the appraisal.

If a gift seems to be grossly overvalued, we will enter on our books the figure determined by the curator. In this case a letter using the donation but without specifying its value can be sent to the donor. This should be sufficient for him in dealings with the IRS.

These guidelines were devised to permit curators to deal with the bulk of our gifts without demanding an outside appraisal, and to continue providing a year-end statement evaluating non-cash gifts for the convenience of our donors.

November 6, 1982

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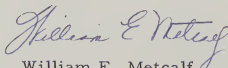
April 20, 1977

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Eric,

Pursuant to our conversation on April 2 regarding the analysis of our Alexandrian tetradrachms, I wrote to Dr. Cope about the possibility of studying the crystallography of the coins. I enclose a copy of his reply which sounds most satisfactory to me. I think it is better that one individual perform both kinds of analysis, and I am sure Cope will be willing to make his results available to you or to your acquaintance in St. Louis who is engaged in similar work.

Sincerely,


William E. Metcalf
Associate Curator of
Roman Coins

WEM:mw
encl.

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THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
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NEW YORK N.Y. 10032

January 27, 1979

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
P.O. Box 14020
St. Louis, MO 63178

Calendar

Dear Eric:

We were all sorry to miss you on January 13, but your absence gave us all the pleasure of meeting your charming daughter and son-in-law. I trust that by now you have actually laid hands on the Huntington Medal, and only hope you won't follow Washington's example and decide to start carrying a pocket-piece.

I am writing to ask whether you will be available to lecture again during the graduate seminar. The seminar schedule would easily accommodate a lecture on the Friday before the July Council meeting, July 13; or, if you are planning to be in New York on other business we can arrange another date. Please let me know your preference as I would like to have the lecture schedule in rough form by the end of next month.

Your trip to Antarctica was good preparation for midwestern weather. I spent last week wading through the snows of Chicago in subzero temperatures, and Meg tells me there has been more snow since. Here, mercifully, we have only constant rain and sleet.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Bill

William E. Metcalf
Deputy Chief Curator

WEM:RMg

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 31, 1979

Mr. William E. Metcalf
Deputy Chief Curator
The American Numismatic Society
Broadway Between 155th and 156th
New York, NY 10032

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your nice note of congratulations. My daughter and her family enjoyed the participation very much and my grandchildren are now talking about Opa's obverse and Opa's reverse, so they must have learned something from the slide presentations. I am, of course, delighted to participate in the Seminar and perhaps July 13, 1979 is a good date. If either one of us has to change it, we will work that out.

I want to assure you that Antarctica in the summer is a lot more comfortable than the conditions to which I am now subjected at home.

Kindest regards,

Eric P. Newman

jah



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BROADWAY BETWEEN 155TH AND 156TH STS.

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10032

March 10, 1979

Mr. Gordon Clark Ramsey
Director of Financial Development
Avon Old Farms School
Avon, Connecticut 06001

Dear Mr. Ramsey:

I have now had time to review the contents of your collection of Continental Currency with both our Curator of Modern Coins and with Mr. Newman. I am sorry to report that neither feels the Society should become involved in the matter.

As I indicated during our telephone conversations, the Society already possesses a large collection of Continental Currency, some of which is currently on display in our east exhibition hall. Any exhibit we might produce on this subject could be done equally well with our own material with far fewer complications. Moreover, we do not have in-house exhibit-design facilities.

I suggest that you consult a professional exhibition-design firm; there are many of these in the tristate area.

Sincerely yours,

William E. Metcalf
Chief Curator

cc: Eric P. Newman

*Thanks for your comments.
WEM.*

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✓
G. M.

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NEW YORK · N.Y. 10032

April 12, 1979

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
P.O. Box 14020
St. Louis, Mo. 63178

Dear Eric:

Enclosed is a copy of the letter I sent today to Mrs. Orlowski. I have altered a couple of minor stylistic points but essentially it conforms very closely to your suggested form. I hope by the middle of next week I can send you the copy with her signature filled in.

Let me take this opportunity to confirm the date of your lecture as Friday, July 20 at 11:00 A.M.

Many thanks for your help.

Sincerely yours,

Bill.

William E. Metcalf
Chief Curator

WEM:RMg
encl.

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NEW YORK · N.Y. 10032

April 12, 1979

Mrs. Alexandre Orlowski
Otterside E-2
Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Dear Mrs. Orlowski:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation and in accordance with suggestions you have made with respect to your collection of Vermont coppers, we would like the opportunity to acquire them. Henry Grunthal will evaluate the collection as a whole at its fair market value and notify each of us accordingly. After receiving such valuation we shall have the option for 60 days to buy the collection at the appraised value by sending you a check for that amount. We will promptly attempt to raise the funds for the purpose. If we do not buy the collection we will return it to you immediately. You have kindly indicated that you wished to pay for the cost of the appraisal, if any.

If the foregoing arrangement is agreeable to you, will you please sign and return the enclosed duplicate of this letter. We want to thank you very much for your patience and cooperation.

APPROVED:

Sincerely yours,

AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

By William E. Hatch

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NEW YORK, N.Y. 10032

April 27, 1979

To Members of the Council;

Pursuant to our discussion at the Council meeting of April 7, I am happy to report that the Society has succeeded in acquiring the collection of 35 Vermont coppers formed by the late Count Alexandre Orlowski. The collection includes most of the known die varieties of this scarce coinage and is particularly noteworthy for the uniformly fine condition of the pieces. While some of the great rarities are missing, most of our gaps in this series are now filled.

The purchase price of \$14,800 was based on an independent appraisal. Funds for the purchase will gradually be replaced through sale of Vermont material which is rendered superfluous by acquisition of the Orlowski coins.

I look forward to displaying a portion of the Orlowski collection at the July meeting of Council.

Sincerely yours,

William E. Metcalf
Chief Curator

WEM:RMg

Mr. William E. Metcalf
The American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 155th Street
New York - NY 10032

July 9, 1981

Dear Mr. Metcalf

I would like to refer to your letter of June 24, 1981 to Mr. Eric Newman concerning the coins which he asked the A.N.S. to identify. Mr. Newman has given me a copy of the letter and suggested that I donate the coin that belongs to the Trajan era to the museum.

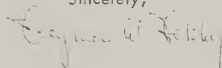
(Y4)

I am sending magnified photographs of the coin in question which I hope will show more details of both sides. If this is insufficient for definite identification I would be willing to send you the actual coin. If this particular coin is not recorded would it be reasonable to assume that it is somewhat rare ? Please give me some idea of its value.

If the coin is indeed rare I would be glad to let you exhibit it in your museum for the purpose of making it available to interested scholars and general public. However, I would like to retain the ownership of the coin regardless of its value. I trust this arrangement is acceptable to you.

Thank you for identifying the coins. I look forwards to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Taimoor A. El-Fiki

cc; Mr. E. Newman

Address: Petrolite Corporation
Tretolite Division
369 Marshall Avenue
St. Louis , MO 63119.

7/14/81

Enclosed are the magnified photographs of the coin
and the actual coin. T. A. El-Fiki

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July 23, 1983

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

I am embarrassed at having forgotten to give you the menial stipend for your lecture at the seminar last Friday. Other business kept me from staying for the talk, but both past experience and current word of mouth assure me that it was a great success.

Many thanks and all good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

William E. Metcalf
Chief Curator

WEM:lw



THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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BROADWAY AT 155TH STREET

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10032

July 28, 1981

Mr. Taimoor A. El-Fiki
Petrolite Corporation
Tretolite Division
369 Marshall Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63119

Dr. Mr. El-Fiki:

I am returning herewith the photographs which accompanied your letter of July 9. They are somewhat clearer than the earlier ones, and it is now possible to identify the coin as a copper hemidrachm struck during Trajan's fifteenth regnal year, A.D. 111/112. The type has been published by G. Dattari, Numi Augg. Alexandrini (Cairo, 1901) no. 1112. The reverse depicts the famed Pharos of Alexandria.

The combination of this type and this date is not represented in our collection, although we do have many coins of Trajan's year 15 and many portraying the pharos. If you were willing to donate the coin we would of course be glad to have it and it would be integrated into our Alexandrian collection, which numbers some 13,000 pieces. But the coin is not integral to our existing or planned public exhibitions, and only with the greatest reluctance would we enter into an arrangement under which we did not have absolute discretion over the display and use of material housed on our premises.

I am enclosing a copy of our "Unrestricted Gift" form for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

William E. Metcalf
Chief Curator

✓encl.
✓cc: Mr. Eric P. Newman

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NEW YORK · N.Y. 10032

September 1, 1983

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63105

Dear Eric,

The Huntington Committee will meet to conduct its business for 1983 at 11:00 AM on Saturday, October 8 here at the museum.

The first item on the agenda will be the designation of a new Chairman of the Committee, since Prof. Buttrey has tendered his resignation. We will then of course consider our nominee for the 1983 award. As usual I am enclosing lists of recent winners of the Huntington Medal and the Medal of the Royal Numismatic Society, as well as brief biographies of these individuals and others who have merited serious consideration in recent years.

I should like to know well ahead of time which of you will be able to attend, and to have your thoughts regarding candidates for the award, whether their names appear on the enclosed lists or not. In this way the Committee can act by correspondence if necessary, and make a recommendation to the Council even should it prove impossible for us to meet.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

William E. Metcalf
Secretary, Huntington
Medal Award Committee

WEM:lw

Enclosure

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THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
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October 21, 1986

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
Post Office Box 14020
St. Louis, Missouri 63178

Dear Eric,

Under separate cover you will no doubt have received the Minutes of the Huntington Committee. Under the circumstances, about which we can talk at another time, I think we made the right choice.

Before I left for London I mentioned that I would be sending copies of a Seminar questionnaire. Those enclosed represent the responses to the 1986 Seminar that have been received to date. I think they are both thoughtful and pointed, and we generally attempt to take account of them in devising the format for future Seminars. I would naturally be glad to have your comments as well.

All the best,

As ever,

William E. Metcalf
Chief Curator

WEM:lw
Encl.

William Metcalf
June 10, 1997
American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 155th St.
New York, NY 10032

Dear Bill:

I have a noon lunch for the Council members to attend on Saturday July 19.

Is it possible to move my talk up to 10:45 AM or does that crowd the earlier program.
Will the earlier program conclude by 10:30 AM ?

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

Mr. William Metcalf
October 5, 1998
American Numismatic Society
Broadway at 155th St.
New York, NY 10032
Re: Huntington Medal Award

Dear Bill:

You asked me to put my thoughts in writing as to the October 23, or 24, 1998 ANS committee meeting.

In my opinion Q. David Bowers deserves the medal now. The excellent quality and immense quantity of his numismatic publication on diverse American numismatic subjects is amazingly overwhelming. His scholarship is superb and his newest book on the formation period of the ANS is a masterpiece and fascinating. I realize he is also a professional commercial numismatist but he is highly respected in that arena. He is 60 years old. Everyone will accept his selection as a natural. His list of numismatic writings is too extensive to include.

As to Walter Breen I am saddened because we could not give him the award because he was in jail and expelled from the ANA for non-numismatic reasons. As a numismatist he was probably one of the best scholars of the 20th century. He was a non-conformist and afflicted with unacceptable personal characteristics and defects. Dr. Sbeldon's thievery was numismatic but his unscientific medical work would probably not have disqualified him from consideration for numismatic recognition. There would have been or would be severe criticism for honoring either Breen or Sbeldon, but both are deceased.

Robert Julian was dropped from the list because I was informed that his Russian numismatic writings were not the result of his original research but were adapted from Russian publications. His U.S. Mint studies and steady stream of fine interpretative short articles from them are important and convincing. They are very extensive but he has written only one important book, a work on U.S. Mint Medals.

I await reports on ANS staff members and their accomplishments because they may have performed a "lifetime" of good work before their retirement.

All of the above named are American but my mind has always been open to the achievement of world-wide numismatic scholars.

I hope I have been helpful.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman